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Message Text

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73
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 /085 W
---------- 030414
R 021645Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5858
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP
SUBJ: SAHARA ROUNDUP

1. BOUTEFLIKA VISIT: UNANNOUNCED BOUTEFLIKA VISIT (RABAT 3166) SUBJECT OF MUCH SPECULATION BUT NOTHING ON SUBSTANCE OF HIS TALKS HAS EMERGED. BOUTEFLIKA HAD TETE A TETE WITH KING HASSAN EVENING JULY 1, WHICH ALGERIAN EMBOFF TELLS US LASTED THREE HOURS, FOLLOWED, ACCORDING TO FONMINISTRY SOURCE, BY ALL NIGHT SESSION WITH MOROCCANS. BOUTEFLIKA REPORTEDLY LEAVING JULY 2.

2. IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT BOUTEFLIKA SAID HE WAS "BEARER OF GOOD NEWS" AND WENT TO LENGTHS TO EXPLAIN THAT SOLID AND FRATERNAL MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN TIES WOULD SURVIVE "NO MATTER WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND SAID." IN CONTEXT ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN RELATIONS, WE NOTE THAT GOM AMBASSADOR SENOUSSI HAS REMAINED IN RABAT
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SINCE LEAVING ALGIERS APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AGO.

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3. PRESS TREATMENT OF VISIT HAS BEEN RESERVED, WITH OPPOSITION PRESS ATTACKS ON ALGERIA MOMENTARILY SUSPENDED, PERHAPS OUT OF COURTESY. USFP DAILY DID NOT APPEAR JULY 2, HOWEVER, POSSIBLY THE PRICE OF CANDOR.

4. ENCLAVE EVENTS: LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED FURTHER INCIDENT NEAR MILILLA JUNE 30, THIS ONE A CONFRONTATION OF SPANISH AND MOROCCAN REGULAR ARMY UNITS IN DMZ BETWEEN THE ENCLAVE AND MOROCCAN TERRITORY. REPORT SAYS UNITS CAME NOSE TO NOSE WHEN MOROCCAN FORCES INTERVENED TO PREVENT SPANISH FROM LEVELING A HOUSE IN ORDER TO ERECT BARBED WIRE BARRIER, AND SPANISH BROUGHT UP TANKS AND A "BATALLION OF REGULARS". ACCORDING TO REPORT, HOWEVER, INCIDENT ENDED PEACEABLY WHEN SPANISH WITHDREW.

5. SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD US JULY 1 THAT CORRECT FIGURES FOR RECENT ARRESTS AND EXPULSIONS OF MOROCCANS FROM CEUTA (RABAT 3180) WERE 160 ARRESTED AND 15 FAMILIES EXPELLED; ALTHOUGH TORTURE CHARGES WERE FALSE, EXPELLEES WERE APPARENTLY BADLY TREATED, ACCORDING TO SOURCE. MOROCCANS INVOLVED INCLUDED ESTABLISHED MERCHANTS, OSTENSIBLY WELL DISPOSED TO SPAIN AND UNLIKELY SOURCE OF TROUBLE. SOURCE SAID HE BELIEVED MEASURE WAS A LOCAL INITIATIVE, TAKEN IN ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL.

6. GOM-GIRM JOINT SAHARA DIPLOMACY: PRESS REPORTED JULY 1 THAT LARAKI AND OULD MOUKNASS SWING THROUGH BLACK AFRICA UNDERWAY AND TWO HAVE VISITED DAR ES SALAAM AND NAIROBI. OTHER PORTS OF CALL NOT KNOWN, BUT WE HAVE HEARD THEY LIKELY TO BE CAPITALS WHERE TWO COUNTRIES NOT REPRESENTED. IN ADDITION TO THEIR MISSION, AND THAT TO MIDDLE EAST OF AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON BOUTALEB (STATE 153292), GOM AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT BENNOUNA REPORTEDLY WILL TEAM UP WITH MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW FOR SIMILAR EFFORT IN LATIN AMERICA.

7. PROPAGANDA FRONT: SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS OF JULY 2 ANNOUNCED FURTHER RALLYINGS TO RABAT FROM PUNS (SPANSIH BACKED SAHARA NATIONAL UNION PARTY), WHICH APPARENTLY WRITTEN OFF BY MADRID FOLLOWING EARLIER DESERTION OF HEAD PUNSTER, OULD ER-RACHID. RALLIERS, ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT, WERE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OULD MOHAMED AND OULD KHLIFA.
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8. MEANWHILE, INTENSE PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN TAN TAN, BEGINNING JULY 3, WHICH WILL BE FORUM FOR SAHARA ORATORY. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT HIGHLIGHT OF FESTIVAL MIGHT BE APPEARANCE BY KING HASSAN.
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